

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1 and 18, as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method , comprising:

supporting emergency calls in a mobile communications network, said mobile communication network comprising a network element;
receiving a network access from a user equipment;
receiving, at the network element, network access information relating to said user equipment, said network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access;
selectively controlling access to the network in dependence on said network access information; and
disabling the selectively controlling access to the network for an emergency call network access.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving includes receiving the network access information that comprises network area access information.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further including:

determining whether said network access comprises an emergency call.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the determining whether said network access is for an emergency call includes receiving an indication of the type of call.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, further comprising:

receiving the indication of the type of network access from the user equipment or from the network.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said selectively controlling includes selectively controlling the network which comprises an access network and a core network.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the controlling and the disabling the access to the network are performed in the access network.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:
determining whether said network access is an emergency call in dependence on
receipt of an indication of the type of network access from the core network.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:
activating the disabling the selectively controlling access to the network, wherein
said activating comprises activating on receipt of the indication of the type of network
access being the emergency call.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
detecting a network access initiation; and,
responsive thereto, disabling the selectively controlling access to the network.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said
disabling includes disabling for a predetermined time period.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

detecting establishment of a radio access bearer; and
responsive thereto, activating the disabling the selectively controlling access to the
network for an emergency call network access.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:
activating the disabling the selectively controlling access to the network only for
the emergency call network access associated with that radio access bearer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:
terminating said disabling responsive to a control signal.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:
receiving the network access information from the core network.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
detecting termination of an emergency call; and,
responsive thereto, enabling the selectively controlling access to the network.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
performing the method in a third generation partnership project mobile
communication system.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodied on a computer
readable medium including computer program code, the computer program code
configured to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a network access from a user equipment;
receiving, at a network element of a network, network access information relating
to said user equipment, said network access information indicating the areas the user
equipment is allowed to access;
selectively controlling access to the network in dependence on said network access
information; and
disabling the selectively controlling access to the network for an emergency call
network access.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising a computer
useable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for supporting

emergency calls in a mobile communications network, the computer program product configured when executed on a computer to perform:

receiving a network access from a user equipment, said network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access;

receiving network access information relating to said user equipment;

selectively controlling access to the network according to said network access information; and

disabling the selectively controlling access to the network for an emergency call network access.

20. (Previously Presented) A network element, comprising:

a network access request receiving unit configured to receive a network access request from a user equipment in a network;

a network access information receiving unit configured to receive network access information relating to said user equipment, said network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access;

a selection unit configured to selectively control network access for the user equipment in dependence on said network access information; and

a disabling unit configured to disable the selection unit for an emergency call network access.

21. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 20, wherein the network access information is shared network area access information.

22. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 20, wherein the network element is configured to determine whether said network access is an emergency call.

23. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 22, wherein the network element is configured to receive an indication of a type of network access call.

24. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 23, wherein the indication of the type of network access is configured to be received from the user equipment or from the network.

25. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 20, wherein the network comprises an access network and a core network.

26. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 25, wherein the access network comprises the network element.

27. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 24, wherein the network element is configured to determine whether said network access is the emergency call in dependence on receipt of the indication of the type of network access from the core network.

28. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 24, wherein said network element is configured to activate the disabling of the selective control responsive to receipt of the indication of the type of network access being the emergency call.

29. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 20, wherein said network element is configured to detect a network access initiation, and disable the selective control of access to the network responsive to said detecting.

30. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 29, further including a timer, wherein the network element is configured to disable the selective control of access to the network for a predetermined time period determined by said timer.

31. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 28, wherein said network element is configured to detect establishment of a radio access bearer, and activate the disabling of the selective control in response thereto.

32. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 25, wherein the network access information is configured to be received from the core network.

33. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 20, wherein said network element is configured to detect termination of an emergency call, and enable the- selective control of network access in response thereto.

34. (Previously Presented) The network element according to claim 26, wherein the network element is a radio network controller of a radio access network.

35. (Previously Presented) A communication system, the system comprising:

an access network;

a core network; and

at least one user equipment configured to connect to the core network through the access network,

wherein the access network is configured to:

receive a request for a network access from the user equipment,

receive network access information relating to the user from the core network, said network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access,

selectively control access to the core network for the user equipment in dependence on said network access information,

identify a request for an emergency call, and

disable the selective controlling of access to the network responsive to identification of the emergency call.

36. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 35,

wherein the access network is configured to identify termination of the emergency call, and enable the selective controlling of access to the network responsive to termination of the emergency call.

37. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 35, wherein the access network comprises an input for receiving an emergency call indicator from the user equipment for identifying a request for the emergency call.

38. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 35, wherein the access network comprises an input for receiving an emergency call indicator from the core network for identifying a request for the emergency call.

39. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 38, wherein the access network is configured to disable the selective control of access to the network on initiation of a call.

40. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 39,

wherein the access network is configured so that the disabling of the selective control of access to the network on initiation of the call is activated for a predetermined time period.

41. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 39, wherein the access network is configured to detect establishment of a radio access bearer, wherein the disabling of the selective control of access to the network on initiation of the call is activated until establishment of the radio access bearer.

42. (Previously Presented) The communications system according to claim 35, wherein the access network is configured to detect termination of the emergency call; and enable the selective control of access to the core network in response thereto.

43. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 35, wherein the access network is configured to receive an indication of the emergency call on relocation of the call to the access network.

44. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 35, wherein the access network is configured to an indication of the emergency call on relocation of the call to another access network.

45. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 35, further comprising a third generation partnership project mobile communication system.

46. (Previously Presented) A network element, comprising:

network access request receiving means for receiving a network access request from a user equipment in a network;

network access information receiving means for receiving network access information relating to said user equipment, said network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access;

selection means for selectively controlling network access for the user equipment in dependence on said network access information; and

disabling means for disabling the selection means for an emergency call network access.

47. (Previously Presented) A communication system, the system comprising:

an access network;

a core network; and

at least one user equipment for connection to the core network through the access network,

wherein the access network comprises

means for receiving a request for a network access from the user equipment,

means for receiving network access information relating to the user from the core network, said network access information indicating the areas the user equipment is allowed to access,

means for selectively controlling access to the core network for the user equipment in dependence on said network access information,

means for identifying a request for an emergency call, and

means for disabling the means for selectively controlling access to the network responsive to identification of the emergency call.